

Appl. No.: 10/031,887

Amdt. Dated May 23, 2007

Response to Office Action Mailed January 24, 2007

REMARKS:

Applicant appreciates the time and care the examiner has taken in examining the application. In making the amendments above, the claims remain supported by the specification and no new matter has been added.

(1) Amended Claim 1

As to the rejection of claim 1, amended claim 1 recites that each of the data processing means has a program to perform an automatic preparation/transmission so as to be capable of automatically checking whether there is new patient information or image data newly added and stored in the database, of automatically preparing e-mail to which the new patient information or image data and a patient ID are attached if there is the new patient information or image data newly added and stored in the database, and of automatically transmitting the e-mail to the other medical information processing apparatuses, based on a predetermined setting condition, and to perform an automatic separation/recording so as to be capable of, if an e-mail to which new patient information or image data are attached is received from one of the other medical information processing apparatuses, automatically separating the new patient information or image data from the e-mail and of automatically storing the separated patient information or image data in the database.

That is to say, each of the data processing means is configured to perform both of the automatic preparation/transmission so as to be capable of automatically preparing an e-mail with new information in the database and transmitting it to the other medical information processing apparatuses, and the automatic separation/recording so as to be capable of, if an e-mail with new

information is received, automatically separating the information from the e-mail and storing the separated information in the database. This means that each of the medical information processing apparatuses mutually updates the databases of the other medical information processing apparatuses.

On the contrary, Teagarden (U.S. Pat. No. 6,694,298) discloses that "a unique aspect of this program is that the patient's physician is contacted via computer automatically and e-mail to, for example, verify current medications, discuss potential interventions, establish therapeutic goals, verify adverse drug reactions, and discuss any compliance issues" (see col. 11, lines 41 to 47), and that "work station personnel optionally connect to and/or conference in a pharmacist or physician computer to obtain, for example current medication or health information on the patient stored in database" (see col. 13, lines 45 to 48, 53 to 56).

However, Teagarden fails to teach or suggest the above-mentioned feature, that is, the data processing means has the program to perform both of the automatic preparation/transmission and the automatic separation/recording.

Incidentally, amended claim 1 recites the program configured for automatically checking whether there is new patient information or image data newly added and stored in the database, data processing means which connects to at least one medical information processing terminal provided with a medical inspection apparatus, and the medical information processing terminals which is provided to be able to input patient information and image data obtained by the medical inspection apparatus to the database of the data recording/reproducing means and interrelates the image data accompanying the patient information.

Thus, the cited references fail to teach and suggest the above features recited in the amended claim 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the invention as set forth in amended claim 1 and claims depending therefrom is novel and patentable over the cited references.

(2) New Claim 23

New claim 23 depending from amended claim 1 recites that the program is configured to always check whether or not capacity of the image data or patient information in a medical folder reaches the set capacity.

The above-mentioned feature makes it possible to prevent occurrence of a situation where a transmission data capacity is too large to be transmitted, and enables the data to be transmitted to the destinations automatically and securely without an error, and further, enables update of the data in the database of the destinations.

On the contrary, Toyoda (U.S. Pat. No. 6,441,916) discloses an Internet facsimile or an e-mail communication apparatus configured to accurately and simply notify a sender of data that resulted in an error or data that have been received successfully even in the case that a large capacity memory or hard disk is not available. However, Toyoda fails to teach or suggest the above-mentioned feature, as recited in the new claim 23.

Accordingly, it also is submitted that the invention recited in new claim 23 is patentable over the cited references.

(3) New Claim 24

The medical information processing system of new claim 24 recites that the setting condition is any one of a specified time interval and a previously specified time instead of "a set capacity of data transmittable as the e-mail" recited in amended claim 1.

For the same reasons set forth above with regard to amended claim 1, new claim 24 is also patentable over the cited references.

(4) Other Claims

In the amendments above, Claims 2, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are amended in accordance with the amendments to the present claim 1. Claim 12 is also amended similarly to the amended claim 1. Claims 13, 17, 19, 20, 21 and 22 are amended according to the amendments to the present claim 12. Claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 14, 15, 16 and 18 are canceled.

For these reasons, the rejections are respectfully traversed, and it is requested that the rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn. It is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for prompt allowance and that all of the objections, rejections and requirements raised in the Office action have been met. Early, favorable treatment of this application is requested.

Extension Request and Deposit Account Charge Authorization. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication, including any required fees under 37 CFR § 1.17(a) for any necessary extensions of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a), which are hereby requested, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0305.

The Examiner is encouraged to call Robert J. Schneider at the direct number (312) 845-3919 with any questions that arise in connection with this application, or to resolve any remaining issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane S. Berman, Reg. No. 43,494

Date: May 23, 2007
Attorneys for Applicant(s):
Robert J. Schneider
Jane S. Berman
CHAPMAN AND CUTLER LLP
111 West Monroe Street, Suite 1700
Chicago, Illinois 60603-4080
Telephone: 312-845-3919

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.8

Attorney Docket Number: 1712652
App. Serial No.: 10/031,887
Date of Facsimile Transmission: May 23, 2007
Transmitted to Facsimile No.: 1-571-273-8300

I hereby certify that the attached correspondence, namely: Response to Office Action, was transmitted by facsimile on the date listed above, to the U.S. Patent Office at the facsimile number listed above, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8.

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Date of Signature: May 23, 2007